

CLITHEROE

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

WM. E. BARKER, M.B., CH.B. (VICT.)  
AND L.S.A. (LOND.).

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.**

1904.

LORD AND MARSLAND, PRINTERS, CLITHEROE.



*To the Chairman and Members of the Health  
Committee of the Borough of Clitheroe.*

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report  
for the year 1904.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WM. E. BARKER.



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**PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL  
CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.**

The Borough of Clitheroe is situated in the valley of the Ribble, at an elevation of from 200 to 300 feet above the level of the sea.

The mean annual temperature is 46.9, and the mean annual rainfall is 47.695 inches.

The District is drained principally by the Mearley Brook, which runs through the town and joins the river Ribble.

The Area of the Borough is 2385 statute acres.

The number of inhabited houses at the last census was 2535, and the number at present is 2756, about 60 houses being now unoccupied.

The assessable value of the Urban District is £37,235 and its Income from all sources £22,450, Expenditure on Improvement works £748, total expenditure £21,480.

#### **POPULATION.**

The population at the census of March 1901 was 11,414, but this number should probably be reduced by from 200 to 300, as a Fair was taking place in the town at the time, and a considerable number of non-residents were thereby included. The population at the middle of 1904 is estimated for the purposes of this report as 11,550.

The chief industry of the town is Cotton Weaving, but there are extensive stone quarries in the neighbourhood, and a promise of extensive cotton printing and dyeing works in the near future.

#### **HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.**

The house accommodation for the working classes is on the whole satisfactory, and in parts good, but there is a considerable amount of old property, and some of the houses at present standing empty are probably unfit for occupation. There are still 282 back to back houses in the Borough only two having been converted into a single house during the past year.

Many of the windows in these houses have been renewed during the year and considerable improvements have taken place in this respect but the bedroom fireplaces are still frequently defective, a serious matter in cases of sickness.

There is no overcrowding.

Some of the back streets in the town require attention but considerable street improvement has taken place during the year.



**SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.**

85 per cent of the houses are now connected permanently or temporarily with the main sewer, 68 having been so connected during the past year. The work is still being carried on. The main sewers are periodically flushed.

Several ventilating shafts have been erected during the year, particularly at the ends of all branch sewers, the results being satisfactory.

The Sewage is treated on the broad land irrigation principle, the crops being grass and willows.

The effluent has been satisfactory.

**EXCREMENT REMOVAL.**

This is carried out by a variety of the tub system. The tubs are not lined nor prepared in any way and have no lids. The emptying of these tubs into the vehicle taken round for the purpose should not commence until after the public have left the streets at night.

The contents of the tubs are conveyed without treatment on to neighbouring lands and this gives rise to occasional nuisance, especially when it occurs in the proximity of habitations.

Water carriage is gradually replacing this system, and 377 fresh water closets, and 731 slop water closets are now in use, an increase of 36 of the former, and 37 of the latter, since the previous year.

A few of the old Midden Privies remain attached to isolated houses outside the town.

**HOUSE REFUSE.**

This is placed in ash tubs and removed fortnightly to the tips outside the town by the Public Authority. In some instances this fortnightly removal is barely sufficient.

**WATER SUPPLY.**

This is excellent in quantity, and quality, and is derived from local Upland Sources.

There are no Public Baths in Clitheroe proper.

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

The Infectious Diseases Notification Act is in operation here. There is no Hospital for Infectious Diseases, and no Public Disinfecting Apparatus.

These matters are receiving the attention of the Council.

Disinfection after infectious disease is carried out by means of burning Sulphur, etc.

Bedding and clothing, etc. are occasionally destroyed by burning, when this is thought desirable.

A special tub is provided for the Excreta in Typhoid Fever.

In all cases disinfectants are supplied free of charge by the Authorities.

**PLACES OVER WHICH THE COUNCIL  
HAVE SUPERVISION.**

Information on this subject will be found in my report on the working of the Factory and Workshops' Act, and in the appended Report of the Inspector of Nuisances.



## VITAL STATISTICS.

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### BIRTH RATE.

The number of births registered during the year was 282, and it is noteworthy that the female births exceeded the male births by no less than 30, there being 156 of the former, and 126 of the latter.

The birth rate for the year is 24.4, this being the highest rate since 1898, but .6 below the average of the last 10 years.

### DEATH RATE.

199 deaths were registered in the district during 1904, and deducting from this total the deaths of 8 non-residents who died in the Workhouse, and adding two deaths of Residents who died in Public Institutions outside the district, we obtain a nett total of 193 deaths, and this number is equal to a death rate of 16.7 per 1000 of the population.

This rate is 1.1 above the rate for 1903, and .5 above the average of the last 10 years. This increase is largely accounted for by the epidemic of measles.

### INFANT MORTALITY.

There were 39 deaths under 1 year of age, equal to a rate of 138.2 per 1000 children born. This is a slight decrease on the average of the last 10 years, and is but slightly affected by the Epidemic of Measles, by far the larger proportion of deaths from this disease having occurred between the ages 1 to 5 years (13 out of 16).

Two deaths occurred under 1 year of age amongst illegitimate children out of a total of 8 illegitimate births registered. The death rate under 1 year amongst these children

TABLE I.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births.		Deaths under One Year of Age.		Deaths at all Ages. Total.		Deaths in Workhouse.	Deaths of Non- residents registered in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institu- tions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1894	11220	324	28.8	42	129	190	16.9	17	7	...	183	16.3
1895	11340	340	29.9	67	197	286	25.2	23	8	...	278	24.5
1896	11470	306	26.6	46	150	211	18.3	19	4	...	207	18.04
1897	11600	295	25.4	26	88	164	14.1	18	8	...	156	13.4
1898	11350	289	25.4	40	138	175	15.4	21	7	...	168	14.8
1899	11350	264	23.2	34	125	166	14.6	17	5	...	161	14.1
1900	11375	248	21.8	41	165	189	16.6	16	5	...	184	16.1
1901	11400	263	23	43	163	183	16	23	9	..	174	15.2
1902	11450	255	22.2	32	125	177	15.4	26	11	...	166	14.49
1903	11500	274	23.8	36	131	185	16.08	20	6	2	181	15.6
Averages for years 1894-1903	11405	285	25.	40	141	192	16.8	20	7	..	185	16.2
1904	11550	282	24.4	39	138.2	199	17.2	18	8	2	193	16.7

\* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

thus being 250. The figures dealt with are too small to enable one to draw conclusions of value, but there is no doubt that the death rate amongst these children, is, generally speaking, higher than the death rate amongst legitimate children, due doubtless to out-nursing and improper feeding.

I am of opinion that the chief remedy for the high rate of Infant Mortality in the Country lies in the teaching of Hygiene in our public day schools.

#### **INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

Table III. shows that 53 cases of Infectious Disease were reported during the year, a decrease of 31 on 1903, and a decrease of 9 on 1902.

The whole of these 53 cases occurred in Clitheroe proper, there being no Infectious Reports from Low Moor.

#### **SMALLPOX.**

No case of Smallpox was reported during the year, a very fortunate, not to say remarkable, circumstance, considering the number of vagrants constantly passing through the town, for it is beyond question that these vagrants are the chief means by which the infection of Smallpox is spread from one district to another.

A careful watch has been kept by Mr. Davies, the Inspector of Nuisances, on the common lodging houses in the Town, with a view to detecting any case, if such should have occurred, at the earliest possible moment, and every facility is always offered in this, and indeed in every respect by Mr. Eltoft, the owner of the principal lodging house in the town.

As I ventured to state in my Report for 1903, I think the time has arrived when some restriction should be placed upon the movements of these vagrants.



TABLE II.

Names of Localities.		Clitheroe.				Clitheroe Proper including Workhouse.				Low Moor.			
Year.		Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year
1894	...	11220	324	190	42	10370	308	180	39	850	16	10	3
1895	...	11340	340	296	67	10490	325	284	66	„	15	12	1
1896	...	11470	306	211	46	10620	290	197	43	„	16	14	3
1897	...	11600	295	164	26	10750	280	154	24	„	15	10	2
1898	...	11350	289	175	40	10500	267	168	38	„	22	7	2
1899	...	11350	264	166	34	10500	255	156	32	„	9	10	2
1900	...	11375	248	189	41	10525	242	175	40	„	6	14	1
1901	...	11400	263	183	43	10550	244	171	42	„	19	12	1
1902	...	11450	255	166	32	10600	243	157	30	„	12	9	2
1903	...	11500	274	181	36	10650	261	164	35	„	13	17	1
Averages of Years 1894 to 1903. }		11.405	285	185	40	10555	271.5	180.6	38.9	850	14.3	11.5	1.8
1904	...	11550	282	193	39	10700	264	174	35	850	18	19	4

TABLE III.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Cases notified in whole district.							Total Cases Notified in each Locality	
	At all ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and up-wards.	Clitheroe Proper.	Low Moor.
Small-pox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria .. ..	13	..	6	3	2	2	..	13	..
Membranous croup	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas .. ..	3	..	..	..	..	3	..	3	..
Scarlet fever ..	34	..	5	23	3	3	..	34	..
Typhus fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric fever ..	3	..	..	..	1	2	..	3	..
Relapsing fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals .. ..	53	..	11	26	6	10	..	53	..

TABLE IV.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined ages.							Deaths in Localities (at all ages)		Deaths in Public Institutions Work-house.
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.	Clitheroe proper	Low Moor	
Small pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	16	3	13	...	...	...	...	16	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping-cough ... ..	5	3	2	...	...	...	...	5	...	...
Diphtheria and membranous croup ... ..	4	...	4	...	...	...	...	4	...	...
Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Enteric ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Other con. ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic influenza	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis .. ..	3	1	2	...	...	...	...	2	1	...
Puerperal fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other septic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis ... ..	8	...	...	...	1	7	...	7	1	1
Other tubercular dis.	5	1	1	...	2	1	...	4	1	1
Cancer, malignant dis	9	...	...	...	...	7	2	8	1	...
Bronchitis ... ..	20	7	2	...	...	5	6	15	5	...
Pneumonia ... ..	8	3	4	1	...	...	...	8	...	...
Pleurisy ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of liver .. ..	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
Venereal diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature birth ... ..	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	..	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition	1	...	...	...	...	1	..	...	1	...
Heart diseases ... ..	18	...	...	...	2	8	8	18	...	2
Accidents ... ..	2	...	...	..	1	...	1	2	..	...
Suicides ... ..	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	3	...	...
All other causes ... ..	85	18	9	1	1	17	39	77	8	14
All causes ... ..	193	39	37	2	7	51	57	174	19	18



My eight years' experience as Deputy Poor Law Medical Officer has driven me reluctantly to the conclusion, that not more than 10 per cent of the vagrants constantly passing through Clitheroe, are bona-fide working men in search of work, indeed that percentage is probably a very sanguine estimate.

These men invariably select a route, along which, the labour task, demanded by the various Workhouse Authorities encountered, is a light one, the consequence being that some districts, of which I fear Clitheroe is one, receive far more than a fair proportion of these unwelcome visitors.

Considering what a danger these vagrants are to the health of the inhabitants of the localities through which they pass, I cannot but think that a heavy responsibility is incurred by Authorities which unduly encourage them.

#### **MEASLES.**

A very severe epidemic of Measles occurred during the last four months of the year entailing the closing for longer or shorter periods of four of the five schools in the town and resulting in the loss of 16 lives of children under 5 years of age.

The epidemic reached the the town from the surrounding villages (chiefly I think from Waddington) in which it had been previously prevalent, and spread throughout the town through the medium of the schools.

I cannot impress too strongly upon the Council, and upon the public, the serious nature of this malady, serious in itself, but doubly serious from the fact that it is commonly regarded as a slight and inevitable ailment of childhood.

The heavy mortality during Epidemics of Measles is largely due to the fact that the disease is not regarded seriously, the result being that almost invariably fatal complications ensue before Medical Assistance is procured, and indeed even before careful home nursing is considered necessary.

The education of the public in these matters seems to me to be the true remedy for this unfortunate state of things, and no time should be lost in instilling a few useful facts of Elementary Hygiene into the minds of the rising generation. I mean through the medium of the Day Schools.

In the meantime the Council might apply for powers to include measles amongst "dangerous infectious diseases" (without notification).

Notices might then be issued during times of Epidemic which would serve to impress upon the public the seriousness of the disease.

The Authorities would also then be enabled to disinfect houses, clothing, etc., and to deal with persons who exposed themselves in public places when suffering from the disease.

#### **SCARLET FEVER.**

34 cases of Scarlet Fever were reported during the year, this number very closely approaching the average of the last 10 years (32).

There were no deaths from the disease, and this fact taken in connection with the 16 deaths which occurred from Measles affords a striking commentary on the relative seriousness of the latter affection.

Table V. shows the number of cases notified, the number of deaths, and the rate of case mortality during the past 10 years.

TABLE V.

Year.	Number of Cases Notified.	Number of Deaths.	Rate of Case Mortality.
1894	12	2	13.2
1895	17	3	17
1896	3	nil.	nil.
1897	7	nil.	nil.
1898	14	nil.	nil.
1899	36	1	2.9
1900	47	1	2.1
1901	118	6	5
1902	57	2	3.5
1903	16	2	12.5
Average of 10 years.	32.7	1.7	5.6
1904	34	nil.	nil.

#### DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRANOUS CROUP.

Following on the severe Epidemic of 1903, isolated cases of Diphtheria have been reported during the past year, 13 cases having been so reported.

The disease has at no time during the year threatened to assume a serious character as regards number of cases.

I am glad to state that I have now received the permission of the Council to avail myself of the facilities provided

by the Public Health Laboratory of Manchester, for the diagnosis by bacteriological methods of doubtful cases of Infectious Disease.

#### **ENTERIC FEVER.**

Three cases of this disease, with no deaths, were reported during the year.

#### **PHTHISIS.**

Eight deaths were attributed to this disease during the year, and five to other tubercular affections.

Voluntary notification of this disease by the medical men of the town would probably be useful, as the disease is now known to be infectious.

Expectoration in public places should be a punishable offence.

#### **WHOOPIING COUGH.**

A considerable epidemic of Whooping Cough occurred during the early months of the year, and entailed the closing of the Infant departments of one or two schools. Five deaths resulted, and like Measles this is a disease which is not regarded in a sufficiently serious manner. Certainly the average case mortality is probably a low one, but these epidemics are usually so wide-spread, that the total loss of life from them is considerable. Notification, with isolation, and subsequent disinfection, is the best remedy immediately available.

It is appalling to think to what a slight extent, the present generation avails itself of—or perhaps one should say has, made available, for it—the knowledge, which is actually now extant, in regard to the guarding and saving of human life.



A vast number of lives are lost annually throughout the country from preventable disease, due on the one hand to the ignorance and carelessness of the public; and on the other to the apathy and parsimony of many of our Public Authorities.

The bulk of the populace are completely ignorant of the most elementary laws of Hygiene, and the most gross superstitions prevail widely in regard to the causation and treatment of many of the most prevalent diseases. Teaching of Hygiene in the day schools would, it seems to me, largely obviate this deplorable state of things, and I cannot but think, that if present day parents recognised the value of such knowledge, they would insist that their children should be better equipped in these respects, than they themselves have been.

Thousands of lives are lost annually in England from one simple cause alone—ignorance as to the proper feeding of an infant.

With a rapidly declining birth rate, with ever increasing competition amongst the peoples of the world; and with immense Colonies, only now as it were on the threshold of their being, in which it must of necessity be vital in the future that we should have a large preponderating population, the day is perhaps not far distant when it will be recognised—if only from a commercial standpoint—that human lives are too valuable to England as a Nation to be thus needlessly frittered away.

#### **FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS' ACT.**

During the year, I have, either alone or in company with Mr. Davies, the Inspector of Nuisances, visited many of the Workshops, Cowsheds, and Bakehouses in the district, and so far as I am aware no difficulty nor unpleasantness whatever has arisen in the working of this Act.

**FACTORIES.**

There are, as last year 18 Factories, including stone quarries, where mechanical power is used, and where more than 40 persons are employed, and 34 where mechanical power is used and less than 40 persons employed.

A notice served last year at one Factory to provide more efficient means of escape in case of fire has been satisfactorily complied with.

**WORKSHOPS.**

There are 74 Workshops where no mechanical power is used and there are 42 Domestic Workshops. Two places have been registered as workshops during the year, one with mechanical power and one without.

All these places have been periodically visited and are kept in a cleanly state, and there have been no complaints or observations in regard to overcrowding.

On some of my visits, as was the case last year, there seemed to be a dislike generally to fresh air, and the means available for ventilation are not always made use of to the most desirable extent.

Whilst the sanitary arrangements at some of the mills cannot be said to be actually deficient, cleanliness is considerably militated against in some cases by the want of efficient lighting in the closets. This is a point which should receive attention, and which in some instances has already done so.

A proper register of Workshops has been kept, and proper lists of out workers in various trades, and their homes have been visited and reported as satisfactory.



**BAKEHOUSES.**

There are 21 places in the district where bread is baked for sale, none of which come under the heading of underground bakehouses.

There is nothing to report in this connection beyond the fact that all special sanitary requirements have been complied with.

**COW SHEDS AND DAIRIES.**

Whilst the latter (Dairies) are all in a satisfactory condition, the same remark hardly applies to the former (Cow Sheds.) They are kept clean, but some of them are decidedly defective as regards air space, lighting, and ventilation. Notices have been served in two instances in this connection and have been complied with.

A portable Cremator has been provided for use in case of an outbreak of Anthrax. No report of such outbreak has been received during the year, but there was an isolated case in 1903, the precautions taken to prevent further infection fortunately being successful.

**SLAUGHTER HOUSES.**

There are six Private Slaughter Houses in use in the Borough, and notice was served in one case to remedy a sanitary defect, and complied with.

The present Public Slaughter Houses are deficient in regard to accommodation, and are generally out of date, and the Borough Surveyor has prepared plans and estimates for New Slaughter Houses on an adjoining site.

When these are completed ample and suitable accommodation will be provided.

The accompanying Table gives a summary of the work under this Act.

# Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Work-places and Homework.

## 1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ..	12	2	..
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ..	15	..	..
Workplaces .. .. .	21	..	..
Homeworkers' Premises .. .. .	23	..	..
Total .. .. .	71	2	..

## 2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found	Re-medied	Referred to H. M. Inspector	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of cleanliness - - - - -	2	2	...	...
Want of Ventilation - - - - -	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding - - - - -	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors - - - - -	...	...	...	...
Other Nuisances - - - - -	...	...	...	...
Sanitary accommodations { insufficient - - - - -	...	...	...	...
(Water Carriage.) { defective - - - - -	3	3	...	...
{ not separate for sexes - - - - -	...	...	...	...
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (S. 101) - - - - -	...	...	...	...
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (SS. 97 to 100) - - - - -	...	...	...	...
Failure as regard lists of outworkers (S. 107) - - - - -	...	...	...	...
Giving out work to be { unwholesome (S. 108) - - - - -	...	...	...	..
done in premises { infected (S. 110) - - - - -	...	...	..	...
which are {				
Allowing wearing apparel to be made in premises infected by scarlet fever or small-pox (S. 109). - - - - -	...	..	...	...
Other offences - - - - -	...	...	...	...
Total - - - - -	5	5	...	...

## 3.—OTHER MATTERS.

CLASS.		Number.
Matters notified to H M. Inspectors of Factories:—		
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (S 133)	- - - -	...
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspectors as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory Act (S. 5)	{ Notified by H. M Inspector - Reports (of action taken) sent to H. M. Inspectors -	1 ...
Other - - - - -	- - - -	...
Underground Bakehouses (S. 101):—		
In use during 1903 -	- - - -	...
Certificates granted { in 1903 - - - -	- - - -	...
{ in 1904 - - - -	- - - -	..
In use at the end of 1904 -	- - - -	...
Homework :—		
<i>Lists of Outworkers</i> (S. 107) :—		Lists   Outworkers.
Lists received - - - -	- - - -	4
Addresses of Outworkers { forwarded to other Authorities -	{ received from other Authorities -	... ...
<i>Homework in unwholesome or infected premises :—</i>		
Notices prohibiting homework in unwholesome premises (S 108) - - - -	- - - -	Wearing Apparel;   Other
Cases of infectious disease notified in homeworkers' premises - - - -	- - - -	
Orders prohibiting homework in infected premises (S. 110) - - - -	- - - -	
Workshops on the Register (S. 131) at the end of 1904.		
Important classes of workshops, such as workshop bakehouses, may be enumerated here.	With Mechanical Power and over 40 persons	18
	„ „ „ „ under „ „	34
	No Mechanical Power. - - - -	74
	Domestic - - - -	42
	Total number of workshops on Register -	168

# REPORT OF Mr. THOS DAVIES, INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

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Inspector of Nuisances Office,

Church Street, January 1st, 1905.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my twelfth annual report of the work done in my department during the year ending December 31st, 1904.

## **INFECTIOUS DISEASES (NOTIFICATION) ACT.**

The following will show the number of cases of Infectious Diseases Notified during the year, with the number of houses in which the cases have occurred:—

Scarlet Fever .....34 cases in 31 houses.

Typhoid Fever ..... 3     „     3

Diphtheria .....13     „     12

Erysipelas ..... 3     „     3

	Total	53	„	49
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In the previous year there were	84	„	69
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Each house after the termination of the cases has been Fumigated with Sulphur, and afterwards thoroughly cleaned.

Several articles of Clothing, Beds, Bedding, Rugs, Toys, and Books have been destroyed by fire after fever cases.

Every precaution is taken to prevent the cases from spreading.

We have distributed during the year to various persons for disinfecting purposes, 280 gallons of Disinfecting Liquor, 58 cwt. of Disinfecting Powder and 2 gross of Disinfecting Powder in Dredgers.

#### **NUISANCES.**

The work done under this heading may be summarised as follows:—

Nuisances on the Books .....	320
Notices sent to abate Nuisances .....	26
Nuisances abated without Notices .....	283
Nuisances on the Books unabated .....	11

The following will show the nature of the Nuisances abated:—

- 54 Choked House Drains opened and cleaned.
- 9 Choked Street Drains opened and cleaned.
- 1 New Drain laid instead of an old drain that had no fall.
- 4 Gulleys cleaned.
- 5 Slopstone pipes repaired.
- 47 Choked Tippers opened and cleaned.
- 12 Broken Tippers repaired.
- 7 Defective Fresh W.C.'s repaired.
- 1 New Fresh W.C. substituted for an Old Pan Closet.
- 4 Dilapidated Closets repaired.



- 33 Dirty Closets cleaned.
- 2 Choked Latrines opened and cleaned.
- 25 Bog Hole Doors repaired.
- 2 New Guards provided.
- 6 Dirty Houses cleaned.
- 23 Dirty Back Yards cleaned.
- 3 Lots of Rubbish removed from Back Street.
- 2 Poultry Cotes removed from Back Yards.
- 2 Burst Water Pipes repaired in empty houses.
- 3 Lots of Manure removed.
- 7 Dead Carcases taken out of the Brook.

The open Sewers in Duck Street, Whalley Road and Pimlico have been cleaned.

The Brook from Donkey Bridge to Greenacre Street has been cleaned.

The Bog Holes in 41 streets have been cleaned and disinfected.

5 Old Midden Privies have been abolished, during the year thus reducing the number of Midden Privies from 40 to 35, the greater number of the remaining Middens are outside the Town proper.

2 Back to back houses have been made into 1 through house, thus reducing the number of back to back houses from 284 to 282.

43 Vans used as dwellings attending the Fairs, from various parts of the Country have been inspected and found clean and free from sickness.

1 Case of Overcrowding has been dealt with.

Several Miscellaneous Nuisances have been attended to.



181 Tubs for house refuse and 250 Excreta Pails have been replaced during the year.

There are 2,474 Tubs for House refuse and 1,945 Excreta Pails in use.

There are 377 Fresh Water Closets and 8 Latrines, and 731 Slop Water Closets in use.

484 of these Slop Water Closets have been put in Old Property since the Corporation adopted the system in 1894, and 247 in New Property.

22 Slop Water Closets have been put in Old Property this year and 15 in New Property.

Estimated number of houses in the Borough 2,816, out of this number 2,403 are connected to the Main Sewer.

Last year 2,335 were connected, thus showing that 68 have been connected this year.

The work of laying Branch Sewers is still being carried on.

The Main Sewers are periodically flushed.

Ventilating Shafts are put up at the end of all Branch Sewers with very good results.

There are 8 Public Urinals in the Town, but there is a scarcity of urinals in the Waterloo, Bawdlands and Woone Lane districts.

A great improvement has been made by laying water on to the urinals in King Lane and Cattle Market.

**REFUSE DISPOSAL.**

The quantity of refuse collected during the year was as follows:—

House refuse from Tubs taken to the Tip at

Horrocksford .....	1,620 loads.
Rubbish from Back Yards       ,,       ,,	3 loads.
Nightsoil from Middens       ,,       ,,	51 loads.
House refuse from Tubs       ,,       Henthorn	576 loads.
Rubbish from Back yards       ,,       ,,	8 loads.
Nightsoil from Middens       ,,       ,,	5 loads.
Excreta from Pails and Tanks taken on to the Land	
of various farms in the District .....	1,161 loads.
Sundries .....	45 loads.
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Making a Total of	3469 loads.
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The work of collecting the House Refuse is gradually increasing.

**SMOKE NUISANCE.**

I have no complaint to make under this heading. I have taken several observations of the smoke emitted from the Mill Chimneys, and the longest period during which dense black smoke was emitted in one hour was a little over 9 minutes.

We have no time limit in force in the Borough.

**COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.**

These places are visited periodically, they are kept clean, but some of them are still defective as regards ventilation, light and air space. The Dairies are all in a very good condition.

Notices have been served on 2 occupiers to remedy some of these defects and complied with.

The Health Committee have provided a Portable Cremator to be used in the case of an Outbreak of Anthrax.

**BAKEHOUSES.**

There are 21 Bakehouses, they are visited periodically, they are kept clean and are well lighted, and ventilated, and I have had no complaint to make during the year.

**SLAUGHTER HOUSES.**

There are 6 Private Slaughter Houses in use in the Borough, they are kept clean.

Notice was served in one case to remedy a sanitary defect and complied with.

The Borough Surveyor has prepared Plans and Estimates for New Public Slaughter Houses to be built near the site of the present Slaughter Houses in Henthorn Road, and the Corporation expects soon to be able to provide ample accommodation for the Butchers, who at present are put to a great inconvenience for want of room.

**COMMON LODGING HOUSES.**

There are 3 Registered Common Lodging Houses in the Borough, kept by 2 persons, they are well conducted, and kept clean.

Our Bye Laws are strictly adhered to, I have had no occasion to report any violation of the Bye Laws during the year.

The lodging house Keepers have given every assistance during the year in watching persons who have come from infected smallpox areas.

**SHOP HOURS ACT.**

There are 22 places that come under this Act, I keep a watch on the young persons employed at these places, but I have no violation of the act to report.

**FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.**

There are 18 Factories including the Stone Quarries, where mechanical power is used and over 40 persons employed and 34 where mechanical power is used and under 40 persons employed.

There are 74 Workshops where no mechanical Power is used, and 42 Domestic Workshops, making a total of 168 places that come under the Factories and Workshops Act of 1901.

2 places have been registered as Workshops during the year, 1 with mechanical power and 1 without.

These places are visited periodically, they are kept clean and are not overcrowded, the sanitary arrangements are in a fair condition, but some of the closets at the mills, would be more conducive to cleanliness if more light could be got to them, especially in the winter time.

Verbal notices have been given in two cases to Lime-wash and clean, and complied with.

The notice served to provide better means of escape in case of fire at Victoria Mill, has been complied with.

Printed notices have been put up at all the Mill Gates warning the workpeople not to throw the contents of their cans and other refuse in the roadway, these notices have had a good effect.

Gentlemen, I remain,

Your Obedient Servant,

THOS. DAVIES.